

# Wisconsin Food Stamp Program At a Glance

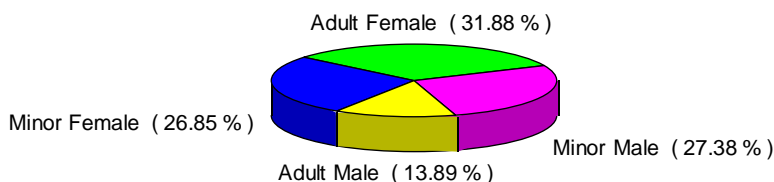
All data is for (or as of) the month of March, 2002<sup>1</sup>

## Who gets food stamps in Wisconsin?

- **Poverty:** 5% of the 5.3 million people in Wisconsin receive FS.<sup>2</sup> On average over the past three years, 8.8% of the state population is at or below the federal poverty rate.<sup>3</sup>
- **Assistance Groups (AGs)/Individuals:** 106,354 Assistance groups are made up of 262,756 individuals. The AG size increased less than 1% from last month.

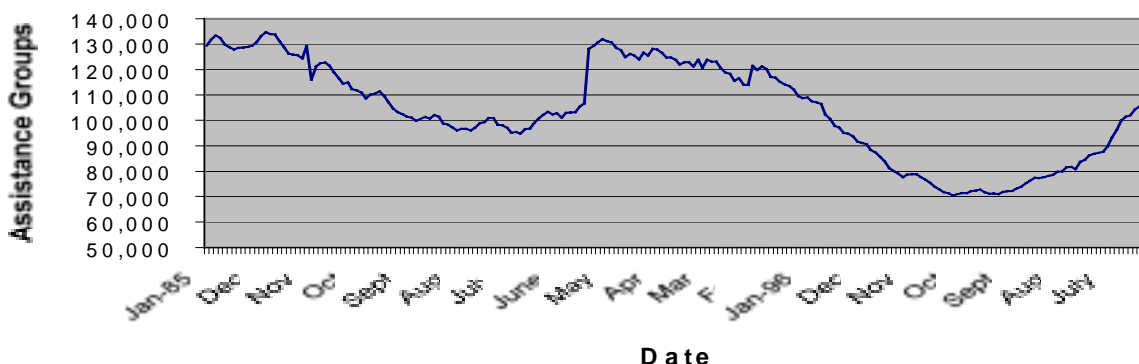
There are an average of 2.5 people in an AG.

Adult Status and Gender Chart



- **Gender:** 59% are female and 41% are male.
- **Adults/Minors:** 46% are adults while 54% are minors. 59% of AGs have minors in them.
- **Historical Caseload trend:** The statewide caseload continues to increase at a steady rate. Since April of 2001 (one year ago), the AGs have increased at an average of 1.9% per month.

## FS Caseload 1985 to present



<sup>1</sup> Source: DWD/DWS FS Data Warehouse

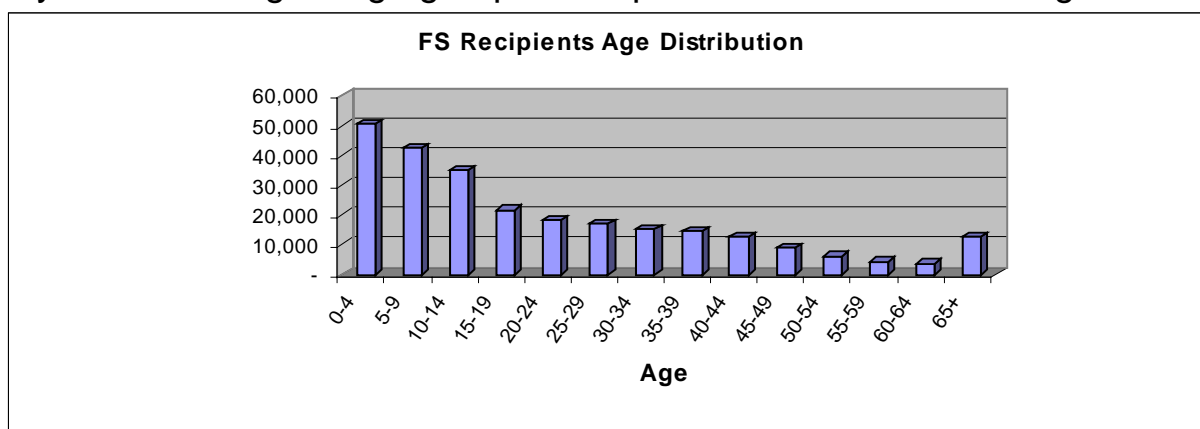
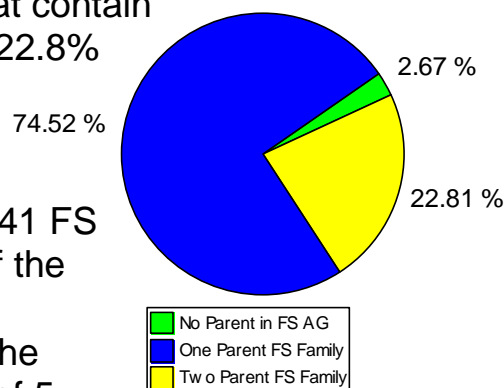
<sup>2</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/55000.html>

<sup>3</sup> Source: U. S. Census Bureau <http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/p60-214.pdf>

- **Minors and their parents:** Of the AG's that contain minors, 74.5% have one parent in the AG, 22.8% have two parents, and 2.7% have no parents in the household. "Parent" is defined as a biological parent.

- **Parents That Are Minors:** 959 minors in 941 FS AGs are parents. That's 1/3 of 1 percent of the individuals that receive FS.

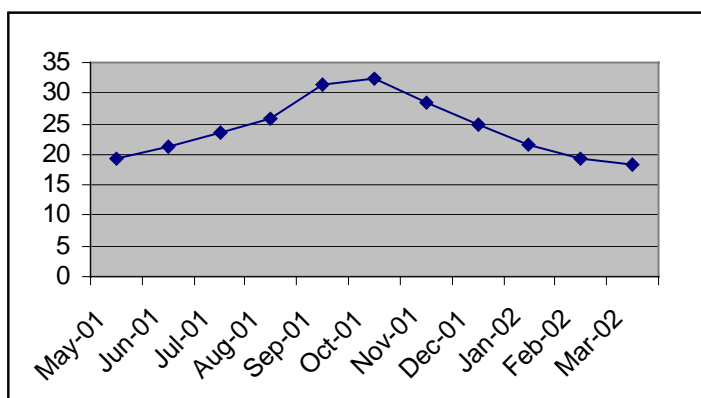
- **Age distribution:** The chart below shows the number of FS recipients by age, in ranges of 5 years. The largest age group is comprised of children under age 4.



- **Elderly/Disabled:** 17.2% of FS recipients are either elderly, blind, or disabled. 42% of AGs contain at least one individual that is either elderly, blind, or disabled.

- **Work/Earnings:** 18.3% of the AGs have at least one person working. This is a decrease of 1% from last month, which decreased 2.4% from the month before. The average monthly earned income of those AGs' is \$950, a reduction on average of \$25 per AG from last month and \$22 from the month before that. <sup>4</sup> 29% of adult FS recipients are employed. Currently, the unemployment rate in Wisconsin is 5.7%.<sup>5</sup>

% of FS AGs with at least one employed individual



<sup>4</sup> This statistic contains prospective income for cases that may have caused the case to close at the end of the report month. Therefore, the income reported here was not necessarily the income used to calculate eligibility or the allotment amount.

<sup>5</sup> Source: DWD Employment Data News Release at <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/newsreleases/2002/042402a.htm>

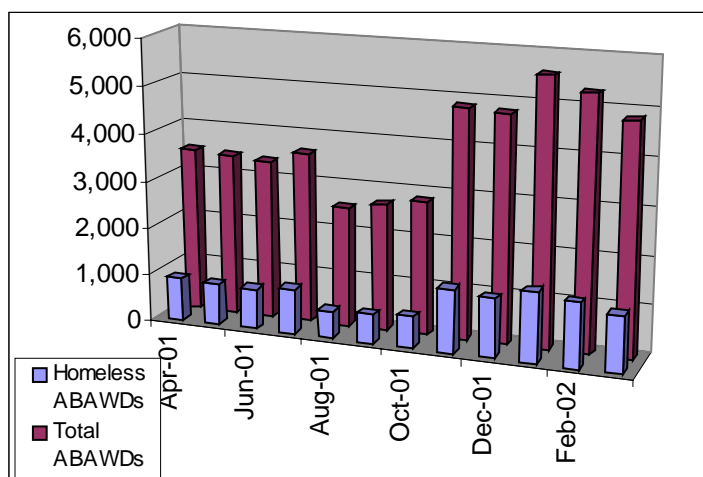
- **Working Families:** A "working family" is defined as a FS AG that contains at least one minor, at least one parent of a minor, and at least one employed recipient. This is an attempt to explore those FS recipients that have children and are able to work. Working families make up 26.9% of the statewide FS AGs, average 3.7 persons per AG, and average \$1,079 in earned income per month. Other stats are available below.

	Working Family AGs	Avg. Recipients per AG	Avg. Earned Income per AG/month	Avg. Unearned Income per AG/month	Avg. FS Allotment per AG/month
One-Parent	20,428	3.3	\$1,013	\$182	\$170
Two-Parent	8,166	4.9	\$1,244	\$218	\$253
Combined	28,594	3.7	\$1,079	\$192	\$193

- **Able Bodied Adults (With or Without Dependents) and Employment:** 41% of Able Bodied Adult FS recipients (non elderly, non-disabled adults) are employed. These individuals may or may not have children. Contrast this with Able Bodied Adults *Without* Dependents below.

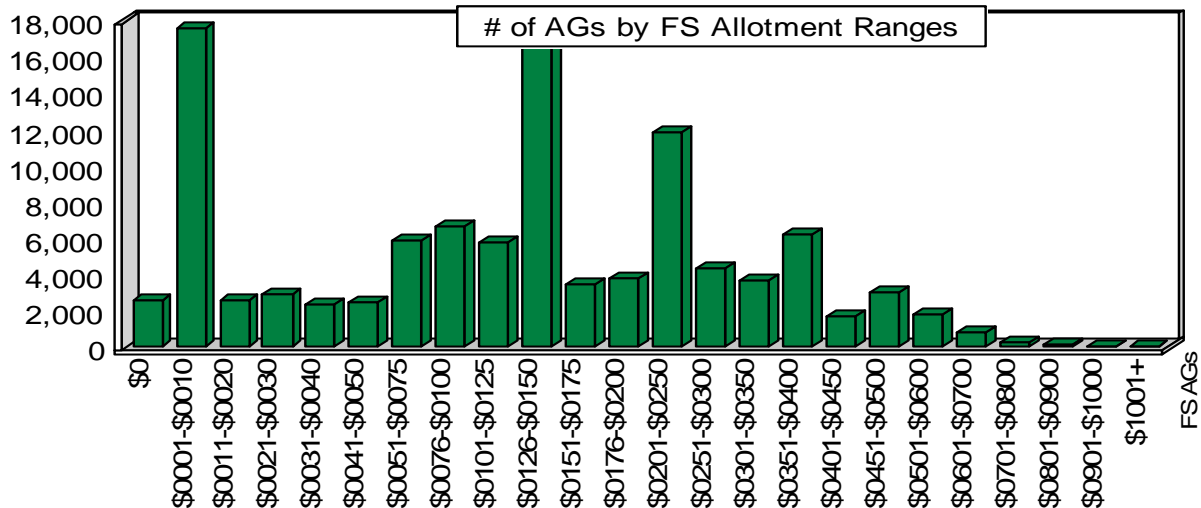
- **Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs):**

4,827 individuals are ABAWDS. That's 1.8% of the FS recipients. The number of ABAWDS decreased by 480 from last month. Only 10% of ABAWDS are employed. 68% of ABAWDS are male, 32% are female. 25% of ABAWDS are homeless, a 2% decrease from last month. Thirty four individuals

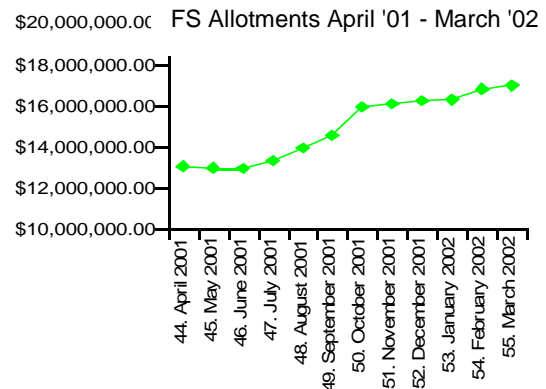


have received 3 ABAWD strikes and are now ineligible for FS until November 30, or until they cooperate with work requirements.

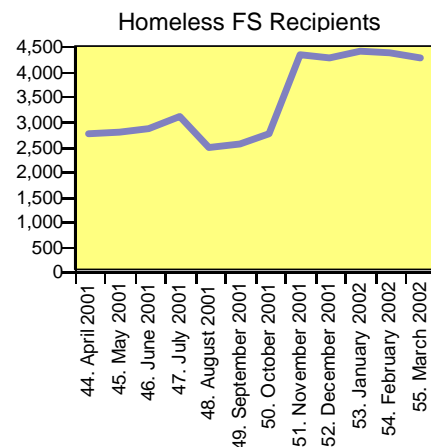
- **Allotments:** A total of \$16.9 million in food stamp benefits were allotted for the month. The average allotment amount per AG is \$159. The average allotment for AGs that contain an elderly, blind, or disabled member is \$93. However, 19% of the caseload only receives between \$0 and \$10 in allotments.



**Allotments continued:** Allotments have increased 29% since April of 2001. AG's and recipients have increased 22% and 21% respectively over the same time range.



- **Homelessness:** 4,285 FS recipients were homeless in March. That's 1.6% of all FS recipients. The number of homeless recipients jumped sharply from October 2001 to November 2001 by 1,600 individuals. This may be attributable to the September 11 attacks. The rate of homeless FS recipients has remained approximately the same since then.



- **Quality Control Error Rate Data:** For FFY 2001, Wisconsin's error rate was 13.14 %. The national average was 8.66%. The average error rate so far for FFY 2002 (October 2001 - January 2002) is 12.6%.